IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) A semiconductor processing process control system for controlling a plurality of processes for semiconductor processing, comprising:

a skip judgment request receiving section which receives a request for judgment whether a process can be skipped or not;

a plurality of judgment plug-in each having a step skip judgment logic for judging whether a certain process can be skipped or not;

a skip judgment yes/no section for searching out a judgment plug-in corresponding to a process to be judged, which is received by the skip judgment request receiving section, from the plurality of judgment plug-in;

a judgment execute section which activates the judgment plug-in searched out by the skip judgment yes/no section and makes the judgment plug-in judge whether the one process can be skipped or not, on the basis of the step skip judgment logic;

a judgment result receiving section which receives from the activated judgment plug-in a result of judgment whether the one process can be skipped or not; and

a skip execute section which effects skipping of the one process when the result of judgment indicates that the process can be skipped.

15. (Original) The semiconductor processing process control system according to claim14 wherein each the judgment plug-in includes:

a spec database holding a set of reference specs which are references for judgment whether a process can be skipped or not;

a spec search section responsive to an instruction from the judgment execute section to · acquire a reference spec from the spec database;

a QC result extracting section which acquires quality information from a quality control database; and

a skip judging section, which receives, the reference spec from the spec search section and the quality information from the QC result extracting section to judge whether a process can be skipped or not on the basis of the reference spec and the quality information.

16. (Original) The semiconductor processing process control system according to claim 15 further comprising:

a know-how database which stores results of judgment whether a process can be skipped or not; and

a transmitting section that sends data in the know-how database to an external system.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A method for controlling a semiconductor processing process control system configured to control a plurality of processes for semiconductor processing, comprising:

a skip judgment request receiving step for receiving a request for judgment whether a process can be skipped or not;

a search step for searching out a judgment plug-in corresponding to a process to be judged, which is received by the skip judgment request received in the skip judgment request receiving step from a plurality of judgment plug-in, each the judgment plug-in having a step skip judgment logic for judging whether a certain process can be skipped or not;

a judgment execute step for activating the judgment plug-in searched out to judge whether the one process can be skipped or not;

a judgment result receiving step for receiving from the activated judgment plug-in a result of judgment whether the one process can be skipped or not; and

a skip execute step which effects skipping of the one step when the result of judgment indicates that the process can be skipped.